

MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Responsible Agency: United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Draft () Final (X)

Type of Action: Administrative (X) Legislative ()

Abstract: The *Miles City Field Office Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/FEIS) describes and analyzes five alternatives for managing the public lands and resources in the planning area. The planning area consists of BLM-administered lands and minerals in eastern Montana in Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, and Wibaux counties and portions of Big Horn and Valley counties.

To help the agency decisionmaker, cooperating agencies, and the public focus on appropriate solutions to planning issues, the PRMP/FEIS considers five alternatives. Alternative A continues current management (No Action Alternative). Under this alternative, use of public lands and resources would continue to be managed under the two existing RMPs, Big Dry and Powder River, as amended. Alternative B emphasizes protection of physical, biological, and heritage resources while providing for the lowest level of development. Alternative C emphasizes resource development while protecting physical, biological, and heritage resources. Alternative D maximizes revenue and economic opportunities through natural resource development while meeting legal, environmental, and cultural requirements. Alternative E is the BLM's PRMP/FEIS, which is not a final agency decision but instead an indication of the agency's preference for management of the public land and minerals.

Summary of major RMP issues includes management of energy development; wildlife habitat management, including sage-grouse; management of special designation areas, including areas of critical environmental concern; special recreation management areas; management of lands with wilderness characteristics and livestock grazing. The alternatives present a range of management actions to achieve goals and desired future conditions for the Miles City Field Office. When completed, the record of decision for the RMP will provide comprehensive, long-range decisions for managing public resources and allowable uses on BLM-administered lands in the Miles City Field Office.

The PRMP/FEIS may be protested for 30 days to BLM's Director. The public protest period begins when the Notice of Availability by the United States Environmental Protection Agency is published in the Federal Register. The protest period will be announced in news releases, newsletters, and at the RMP website: http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/miles_city_field_office/rmp.html.

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